

Budget Activities Summary

State of Idaho



A stylized, cursive signature of Dirk Kempthorne in white ink on a dark blue background.

DIRK KEMPTHORNE
GOVERNOR

2003 Legislative Session
May 2003

State of Idaho
2003 Legislative Session

BUDGET ACTIVITIES
Summary

Prepared by the
Division of Financial Management
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State of Idaho

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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Governor Kempthorne characterized this session of the legislature as follows:

"This was a difficult, yet defining session. Idaho is moving forward while other states are moving backwards in the face of the national economic slowdown. I said in my State of the State and Budget messages in January that it would take time for the lawmakers to come to terms with the realities of our economic slowdown and the path forward I suggested to maintain essential government services while keeping our budget balanced."

Although the session was the longest in the history of Idaho, the budget was balanced with a combination of further budget cuts and an increase in the sales and use tax and the cigarette tax. Most state agencies received a reduction in their General Fund budgets, but public schools received a twenty-three million dollar increase, including the seven million dollar education stabilization fund. Medicaid received an increase in their budget, but Medicaid requirements will outpace the budget growth during the coming year. Even with budget cuts, all state agencies will continue to provide essential state services.

This Budget Summary is prepared to help the reader understand the budget process and see the challenges that lie ahead as we recover from this economic slowdown. As you review the budget activities of this past session, you will see that the state has confronted the economic challenges head on, but must continue to refine the budget priorities for at least the next two legislative sessions.

The Division of Financial Management welcomes any comments, questions, or suggestions that will help us in our mission to provide effective and efficient services to the people of the State of Idaho.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Darrell Manning".

Darrell Manning
Acting Administrator

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